

21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the VPN is formed using the Internet Protocol Security (IPSEC) standard.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the messaging and collaboration data is one of email, calendar, or contact information.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the data network is a private network.

24. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the single higher level request is produced by a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) proxy programmer.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) stub program receives the higher level request and converts the higher level request to the plurality of data requests.

26. (New) A method, comprising:
converting a plurality of data requests for messaging and collaboration data into a single higher level request in an enterprise gateway server;
transmitting the higher level request;
receiving the higher level request;
converting the higher level request to the plurality of data requests;
using the converted plurality of data requests to query a messaging database that stores messaging and collaboration data corresponding to the plurality of data requests from the enterprise gateway server; and
returning the results of the query to the enterprise gateway server.

27. (New) A computer-readable medium containing computer instructions that when executed perform a method, comprising:

converting a plurality of data requests for messaging and collaboration data into a single higher level request in an enterprise gateway server;
transmitting the higher level request over a data network;
receiving the higher level request in a remote gateway server;

converting the higher level request to the plurality of data from the remote gateway server to the enterprise gateway server requests; and

providing messaging and collaboration data in response to receiving the plurality of data.